

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

4(Currently amended). The cell line of claim [[21]] 23, which bears accession No. FERM BP-5823.

5(Currently amended). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising:

contacting a compound or a mixture of compounds with the cell line of claim [[1]] 23 to screen for a cell differentiation-controlling material; and

determining the capability of the compound or the mixture of compounds to induce differentiation of the cell line.

6(Currently amended). The method of Claim 5, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

7(Currently amended). The screening method of Claim 5, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

8(Currently amended). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim [[1]] 23 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

9(Currently amended). The kit of Claim 8, wherein the cell differentiation-controlling material is a material controlling differentiation into chondrocytes or adipocytes, a material controlling destruction of cartilage tissues or a material controlling calcification of chondrocytes.

Claims 10-15 (Cancelled).

16(Currently amended). A method for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising using the cell line of claim [[4]] 27.

17(Currently amended). The screening method of claim [[6]] 27, wherein the material screened for is a gene.

18(Currently amended). A kit for screening for a cell differentiation-controlling material, comprising the cell line of claim [[4]] 27 and a reagent for detecting changes of properties of the cell line which may be caused by the action of a candidate cell differentiation-controlling material to be screened.

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled)

21(Currently amended). The cell line of claim [[1]]
23, which is derived from cells of the crural bones.

22(Currently amended). The cell line of claim [[1]]
23, selected from the group consisting of cell lines from femoral
bones, cranial bones, trachea, auricles, nose, intervertebral
disks, and heart.

23(Currently amended). A cell line derived from a
normal adult animal, which in the absence of dexamethasone is
capable of differentiating into chondrocytes and [[is]] capable
of differentiating into adipocytes.

24(Currently amended). The cell line of claim 23,
wherein the normal adult animal is a normal adult mouse.

25(Previously presented). The cell line of claim 23,
which is derived from undifferentiated mesenchymal cells.

26(New). The cell line of claim 23, which is a clonal
cell line.

27(New). The cell line which bears accession no. FERM
BP-5823.